

U.S. Serial No.: 10/708,919
File: March 31, 2004
Group Art Unit: 3733
Examiner: David C. Comstock
Atty. Docket No: 101896-241 (DEP-5293)

REMARKS

The pending Office Action addresses claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13-20, 42, 43, and 46-50. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13-20, 42, 43, and 46-50 stand rejected. Claims 7 and 8 are objected to.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 42, 43, and 46 are amended to include a limitation similar to that of claim 7, which is now amended. No new matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter


The Examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 8 would be allowed if rewritten into independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, independent claim 1, 42, 43, and 46 are amended to include a limitation similar to that of claim 7. This amendment is believed to obviate any rejections over independent claims 1, 42, 43, and 46, and to place these claims, as well as claims 2, 7-10, 13-20, and 47-50 which depend therefrom, in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2006



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